

Don't Love What Is Passing Away (1 John 2:12-17)

Because your sins are forgiven and you belong to God at every stage of faith, do not love the passing world.



Big Idea and Scripture Reading

Because your sins are forgiven and you belong to God at every stage of faith, do not love the passing world.

01 Big Idea

Because your sins are forgiven and you belong to God at every stage of faith, do not love the passing world—fix your heart on the Father and do His will.

02 Scripture Reading

1 John 2:12-17 (CSB)

Introduction to the *Tests of Genuine Faith*

John pauses to affirm his readers before issuing one of the strongest warnings in the letter.

John has been giving us tests of genuine faith: walking in light, keeping commands, loving one another. Now he pauses to affirm his readers before issuing one of the strongest warnings in the letter: “Do not love the world.” John writes like a pastor who knows his people are already in Christ but still need encouragement to keep going. Assurance fuels obedience. This section roots believers in their identity in the Father so they can resist the competing claims of the world system.

Affirmation: You Already *Belong to God*

John addresses the church in overlapping stages of spiritual maturity found in every congregation.

1

Little children

Your sins have been forgiven on account of his name; you have come to know the Father.

2

Fathers

You have come to know the one who is from the beginning.

3

Young men

You are strong, God's word remains in you, and you have had victory over the evil one.

Little children: ***Forgiveness*** as the Starting Line

1 **Scripture**
“Your sins have been forgiven on account of his name... you have come to know the Father.”

2 **Foundational Assurance**
Forgiveness is the starting line, not the finish, granted because of Jesus.

3 **Generational Covering**
Foundational assurance for every believer, regardless of how young they are in the faith.

Fathers: Abiding in the *Eternal Christ*

“You have come to know the one who is from the beginning.”

Spiritual Maturity: Mature believers enjoy deep, abiding knowledge of the eternal Christ.

Seek relational intimacy with the unchanging God.

Key Insight: Identity Precedes the *Call to Separation*

John gives this triple encouragement before the command not to love the world. Identity in Christ precedes the call to separation. You fight worldliness from victory, not for victory.

Command: *Do Not Love* the World



The Mandate

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”



Defining Kosmos

“World” here is not physical creation or people, but the fallen system of values, desires, and powers opposed to God.



Mutual Exclusivity

Love for the world and love for the Father cannot share the same heart.

Diagnosis: The *Anatomy of Worldly Love*



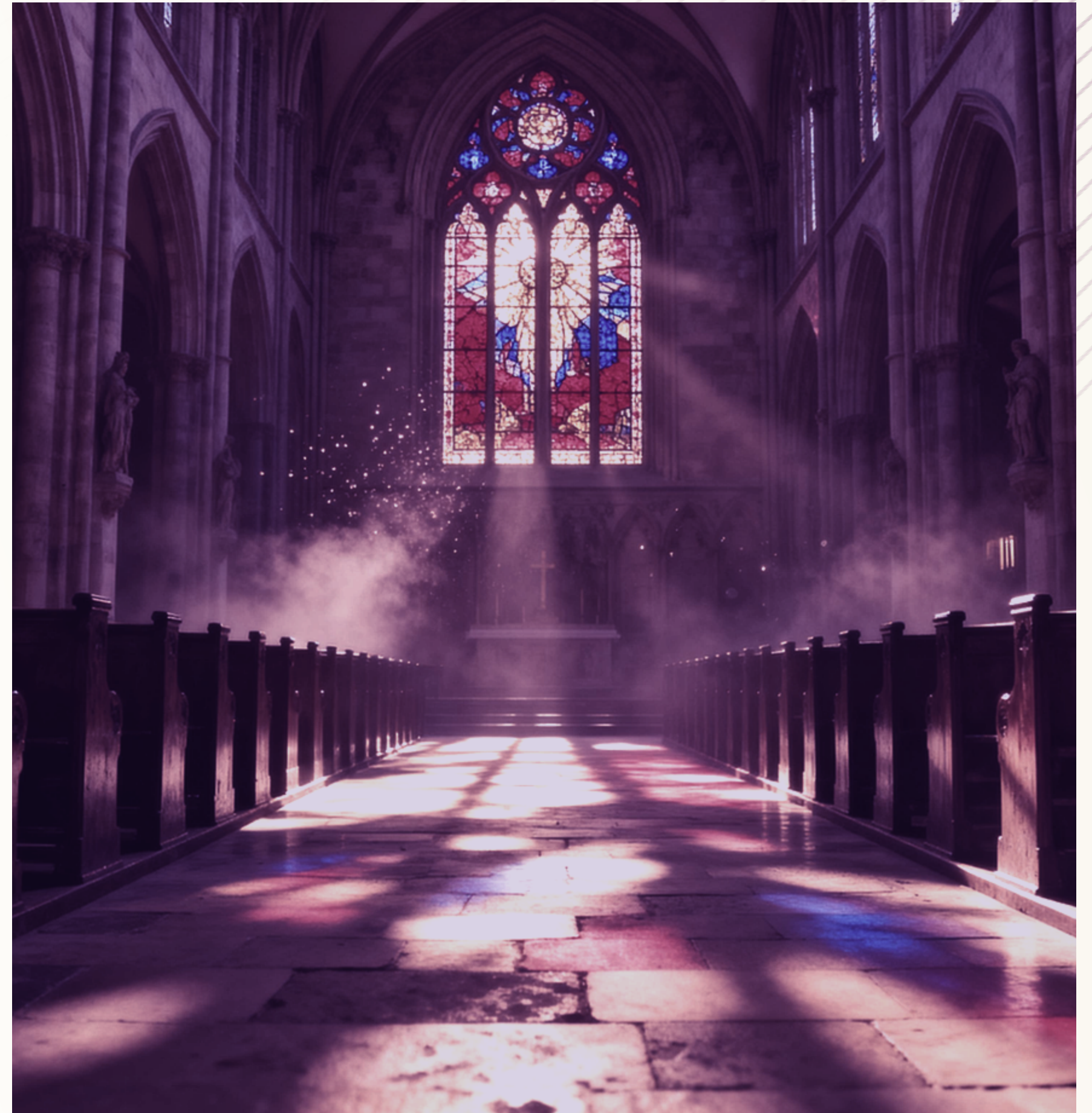
Triad

“Everything in the world — the lust of the flesh, the eyes, and pride in possessions — is not from the Father but is from the world.”



Historical Echoes

This classic triad echoes Genesis 3:6 (the Fall) and Jesus’ temptation in Matthew 4.



Breakdown: *Three Pulls* of the World System

Lust of the flesh

Sensual appetites and bodily cravings that crave immediate gratification (sex, food, comfort, pleasure).

Lust of the eyes

Covetous desire for what we see — materialism, envy, endless scrolling, the “if I only had...” trap.

Pride in possessions

Pride of life; boasting in status, achievements, image, or self-sufficiency. Jobes notes this is the arrogant confidence that life consists in what we own.

Conclusion

These are not neutral desires; they belong to the world system and pull us away from the Father.

Motivation: *Passing* vs. Permanent

1 Eternal Contrast

“The world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.”

2 Process of Dissolution

The world is already in the process of dissolution (present tense).

3 Endurance

Only God’s will endures into eternity.

4 Eschatological Urgency

Investing in what is passing is like building sandcastles at low tide. Live now in light of what will last.

Conclusion and *Application*

True conviction comes from knowing Jesus and resting in your identity as a forgiven child of God.

Weekly Practice

Practical *Applications for the Week*

Identify and Fast

Identify one “world” thing this week and fast from it. Replace it with time in God’s Word or acts of love for the Father and others.

Daily Reminder

Speak verses 12-14 over yourself — “My sins are forgiven... I know the Father... I am strong in His Word.”

Church Family

Share with someone this week what you’re fasting from and why (accountability + testimony).